

Amendment to the Claims

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. A pocket battery separator having a useful life for a lead-acid storage battery ~~having a useful life~~, said separator comprising a microporous sheet comprising ultra high molecular weight polyethylene having a center area and side areas and being provided with a plurality of studs in the center area of ~~at least~~ a first side of the sheet, characterized in that the separator additionally comprises two to four elongated vertical ribs in the center area of ~~at least~~ said first side of the sheet provided with a plurality of studs, said ~~at least one~~ elongated continuous vertical ribs and said plurality of studs remaining on said sheet during said useful life, said studs having a shape selected from the group consisting of spherical caps, semi-spheres, truncated pyramids, truncated cones and non-continuous ribs having a length of more than 0.5 cm.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently amended) The separator as defined in claim 1 wherein ~~said~~ at least one of said two to four elongated vertical ~~rib~~ ribs has the same or a lower height than the studs.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Original) The separator as defined in claim 1 wherein the studs and the ribs are solid bodies integrally formed of the same material as the separator sheet.

8. (Previously presented) The separator as defined in claim 1 wherein the ribs are formed of a different material than the separator sheet.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Previously presented) The separator of claim 1 in which the studs and vertical ribs are provided on the inner surface of the pocket.

12. (Currently amended) The separator of claim 1 wherein ~~the~~ at least one of said two to four elongated ~~rib~~ ribs is arranged in the bottom edge area of the separator pocket.

13. (Currently amended) A rolled-up battery separator having a useful life for a storage battery ~~having a useful life~~, said separator comprising a porous sheet having a center area and side areas and being provided with a plurality of studs on ~~at least~~ a first side of the sheet, characterized in that the separator additionally comprises two to four elongated continuous vertical ribs in the center area of ~~at least~~ said first side of the sheet provided with a plurality of studs, said plurality of studs and said ~~at least one~~ two to four elongated vertical ribs remaining on said sheet during said useful life, said studs having a shape selected from the group consisting of spherical caps, semi-spheres, truncated pyramids, truncated cones and non-continuous ribs having a length of not more than 0.5 cm, said separator being adapted to be cut into pieces for insertion in

said storage battery.

14. (Original) A lead acid storage battery comprising at least one separator according to claim 1.

15. (Currently amended) A pocket battery separator for a lead-acid storage battery, said separator being a microporous sheet consisting essentially of a homogeneous mixture of 8 to 100 vol.% polyolefin, 0 to 40 vol% plasticizer and 0 to 92 vol.% inert filler, said sheet having a center area and side areas and being provided with a plurality of studs in the center area of ~~at least~~ a first side of the sheet, characterized in that the separator additionally comprises two to four elongated continuous vertical ribs in the center area of ~~at least~~ said first side of the sheet provided with a plurality of studs, said studs having a shape selected from the group consisting of spherical caps, semi-spheres, truncated pyramids, truncated cones and non-continuous ribs having a length of not more than 0.5 cm.